

LCA Activities in Latin America

LCA Association in Latin America

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DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1065/lca2005.09.006>

During the 'International Conference on LCA' (ICLCA 2005) held on April 25–28 in Costa Rica, two important meetings took place in order to form one common LCA association for Latin America.

At the moment, there were two groups, the Latin American Life Cycle Network, started in 2003 by several Latin-American LCA experts, and ALCALA (Asociación LCA de Latino América), started in 2005 in Costa Rica, to support the conference. The work within the Latin American Life Cycle Network has focused on research, development of educational materials, the integration of existing knowledge and, in 2004, they compiled the book 'Life cycle assessment – ISO 14040 in Latin America'.

The first meeting during ICLCA 2005 had the aim of presenting ALCALA, which is legally constituted in Costa Rica and considers different relevant activities to support LCA developments and promotion in Latin America in its charters. During this first meeting, there was an invitation to

consider ALCALA becoming the representative LCA association for the region. The advantages of having the support of a formal organization were highlighted.

On April 27, an enthusiastic group of participants from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Peru and Mexico gathered in a second meeting and supported the idea of forming a common association to strengthen the use of LCA in the region. At the closure of the ICLCA, ALCALA was officially presented to the international LCA public. Members from different countries in Latin America were added to ALCALA, and a working group was established to determine the different tasks ALCALA will deal with. The working group is currently discussing and working on the following topics: objectives, adequate legal structure, communication and promotion.

Comments and suggestions to any of the above-mentioned topics are welcome to help the working group in their task; please contact Sonia Valdivia at (svaldiv@pucp.edu.pe) in Peru.